

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated October 30, 2003, claims 3-18 and 20 were pending. Of those claims, claims 6-18 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b). Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that this application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters and claim 3 is generic.

In this Amendment, claims 3, 5-15, 17, 18 and 20 have been amended and claim 16 has been canceled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

In response to the Examiner's objection, Applicant has amended claims 3 and 5 in a manner consistent with the Examiner's suggestions (see the paragraph 3 of the Office Action). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits withdrawal of the objections to claims 3 and 5.

Applicant also amended claims 6-15, 17 and 18 to be dependent from generic claim 3 for being rejoined. In amending those claims, Applicant has deleted reference numbers from the claims and slightly revised language of the claims to conform to that of claim 3. It is noted that claim 17 has extensively been revised as compared with the other claims because the deleted limitations from claim 17 are already recited in claim 3. The amendment made to claim 17 is not intended to broaden its scope. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to allow claims 6-15, 17 and 18 to be rejoined.

It is noted that claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 20 have also been amended for better form. Specifically, Applicant has amended claim 5 to delete "(VBP, VBN)" and has added the word "for" to the other claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully solicits favorable consideration of this Amendment. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's

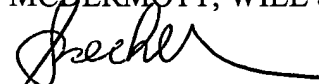
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amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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